

Plant-out-of-place Woolly Distaff Thistle



Plant-out-of-place Yellow Starthistle



Plant-out-of-place Purple Starthistle



EXOTIC HERB Purple Starthistle

(*Centaurea calcitrapa*)

Description

- Erect annual plant 1/2-4 ft tall
- Numerous small (1/4 in wide) purple, white, or pink flower heads surrounded by long, sharp spines
- Mature flowers WITHOUT a pappus (tiny tuft of hair on seed for dispersal– like a dandelion)
- Young leaves deeply lobed, grey, with cobweb-like hairs and light midrib
- Mature leaves 4-8 in long, without hairs
- Stems without “winged” ridges

Habitat

- Agricultural, grasslands, roadsides, disturbed areas

Don't confuse with...

Iberian Starthistle

(*Centaurea iberica*) which has:

- Purple flower heads with spines, wider (1/2 in) than PST (1/4 in)
- Has a pappus (bristle on seed)



Purple Starthistle seed (left)
Iberian Starthistle seed (right)

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EXOTIC HERB Yellow Starthistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

Description

- Annual plant 1/2-6 ft tall
- Numerous small bright yellow flower heads surrounded by long, sharp yellow spines (0.4-1 in long)
- Mature leaves grey-green, covered with fine cottony hairs, giving the plant a grey-silver appearance from a distance
- Stems are “winged”
- Young plants form a rosette (circular cluster of leaves)

Habitat

- Agricultural, grasslands, roadsides, disturbed areas

Don't confuse with...

Tocalote or Napa Thistle

(*Centaurea melitensis*) which has:

- Yellow flower heads with 1/2-in-long spines, shorter than YST
- Grows to 3 ft tall, shorter than YST
- Also a plant-out-of-place

Yellow Starthistle

Tocalote



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EXOTIC HERB Woolly Distaff Thistle

(*Carthamus lanatus*)



Description

- Erect annual plant to 3 ft tall
- Yellow flower heads with red veins $\frac{3}{4}$ in wide, surrounded by spiny modified leaves up to 2 in
- Leaves with deep lobes and spines
- Stems single on the bottom half and branched on the top
- No stem wings
- Young plants form a rosette (circular cluster of leaves)

Habitat

- Disturbed areas, seeds are moved by animals and machinery

Don't confuse with...

Yellow Starthistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

which has:

- Unlobed upper leaves
- A grey appearance
- Thin spines around flower



Yellow Starthistle flower

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